

### A new *Balanophora* from Tenimber Islands.

When Mr. H. O. Forbes visited the Tenimber islands in 1882, he obtained among his collections, specimens of a *Balanophora* which however perished in the disastrous conflagration by which the greater part of his collections were destroyed. No other person has since visited this group with a view of collecting botanical specimens though Orchid collectors have lately taken to exploring the spot usually for the sake of the beautiful *Dendrobium Phalaenopsis*. Mr. Micholitz during a recent visit came across the *Balanophora*, and brought a quantity of it preserved in Formaline which he has kindly given me, and I may here remark that this seems to be about the best way of preserving these fleshy plants. If preserved in ordinary spirit, not only does the spirit become black, though often changed, but the plants which are ordinarily red, yellow or white also become black. The specimens in formaline retain to a considerable extent the yellowish white color which they possessed in life.

*B. Micholitzii*, n. sp.

Rhizome rather small about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch through, rounded and shortly lobed, minutely irregularly pustulate. Stems two or three on a rhizome, 2 inches tall thick, leaves about 8, orbicular to orbicular ovate, apex rounded  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide white. Capitulum ovoid globose 1 inch long yellowish bisexual.

Male flowers in two or three whorls at the base, pedicels  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long thick. Sepals 4 oblong fleshy, apices thickened incurved, shorter than the pedicel, reflexed, androecium thick, anther-capitulum rounded, anthers 4 horse-shoe shaped. Female portion broad globose rounded. Flowers obconic clavate, apex rounded tessellate, spadicels numerous nearly as long as the pistil, base and apex slender filiform centre swollen.

This plant is nearly allied to *B. Zollingeri* Fawcett, Trans. Linn. Soc. Ser. ii. Vol. ii. p. 234. Plate 34 figs 11-14 which was collected by Zollinger in the island Salayer, south of Celebes. It is however much larger in all its parts, and the female flowers are more club shaped with a longer stalk armed with large well developed spadicels.

*H. N. Ridley.*